

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle lifting platform comprising:

at least one column;

at least one support arm comprising supports, said support arm being shiftable along said

column by means of vertical guides;

a prime mover comprising switching and control elements; and

a transmission between said prime mover and said support arm associated with said column, wherein said transmission comprises at least one flexible traction cable coupled to a rotating member disposed at an upper end of said column and to said support arm associated with said column.

2. The lifting platform according to claim 1, wherein said flexible traction cable is

selected from the group consisting of a sheathed cable, a belt and a link chain.

3. The lifting platform according to claim 1, wherein said prime mover comprises an

electric motor mounted on said column, said prime mover driving said rotating member for said traction cable by means of a chain drive.

4. The lifting platform according to claim 2, wherein said prime mover comprises an
2 electric motor mounted on said column, said prime mover driving said rotating member for said
traction cable by means of a chain drive.

5. The lifting platform according to claim 3, further comprising two columns and
2 one vertically shiftable support arm on each column, wherein said two columns are connected to
each other by means of a shaft carrying a sprocket wheel of said chain drive and one driving
4 member for each traction cable.

6. The lifting platform according to claim 5, wherein said prime mover is disposed at
2 the upper end of said column and wherein said shaft connects the two upper ends of both
columns with each other.

7. The lifting platform according to claim 5, wherein said prime mover is disposed at
2 a lower end of one column and wherein said shaft is disposed on or in a floor foundation, said
traction cable running on a relay at the upper end of the respective column.

8. The lifting platform according to claim 6, wherein said prime mover is disposed at
2 a lower end of one column and wherein said shaft is disposed on or in a floor foundation, said
traction cable running on a relay at the upper end of the respective column.

9. The lifting platform according to claim 1, further comprising brake means for said
2 support arm, said brake means automatically activated when a predetermined lowering speed of
at least one support arm is exceeded.

10. The lifting platform according to claim 9, wherein said brake means can also be
2 operated manually.

11. An underfloor lifting platform comprising:
2 at least one vertical beam liftable and lowerable in a pit;
at least one support arm comprising supports fixed to said vertical beam;
4 a prime mover comprising switching and control elements; and
a transmission between said prime mover and said vertical beam, wherein said
6 transmission comprises at least one flexible traction cable, said cable being coupled to a rotating
member rotatably driven by said prime mover and said cable engages at a lower end of the
8 associated vertical beam.

12. The underfloor lifting platform according to claim 11, wherein lower ends
2 of two vertical beams are fixedly connected to each other by a dimensionally stable transverse
beam on which two traction cables engage.

13. The underfloor lifting platform according to claim 12, further comprising
2 a shaft running in two stationary bearings.

14. The underfloor lifting platform of claim 13, further comprising a drum for
2 winding and unwinding the associated traction cable, said drum being provided as a rotating
member in an upper section of said pit between guides.

15. The lifting platform of claim 14, further comprising brake means.

16. The lifting platform according to claim 15, further comprising a
2 monitoring means for stopping said prime mover and for activating said brake means in case of
abnormal operating states.

17. The lifting platform according to claim 11, further comprising a manually
2 operable lowering drive for lowering said support arm when said prime mover is intact.

18. The lifting platform according to claim 15, wherein said brake means
2 comprises at least one brake shoe interacting with the respective vertical guide of said vertical
beam.

19. The lifting platform of claim 16, wherein said brake means comprises at
2 least one brake shoe interacting with the respective vertical guide of said column.

20. The lifting platform according to claim 1, further comprising a safety
2 means comprising a positively acting arrest element such as an underrun bolt.

21. The lifting platform according to claim 11, further comprising a safety
2 means comprising a positively acting arrest element such as an underrun bolt.

22. The lifting platform according to claim 16, wherein said monitoring means
2 comprises a position detector disposed on said vertical beam.